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## Cognates vs. False Cognates

Cognates- Words that look alike and have similar meanings in English and Spanish are called **cognates** (cognados). Here are some examples:

| **Spanish** | **English** |
|---|---|
| popular | popular |
| usar | to use |
| guitarra | guitar |
| computadora | computer |

False Cognates- These are words that fool students because they look like cognate words, but have different meanings in English. Here are some examples:

| **Spanish** | **English** |
|---|---|
| el campo | countryside |
| atender | to take care of |
| la tormenta | storm |
| el vaso | drinking glass |
| el exito | success, outcome |

### *Recognizing cognates*
Becoming skilled at recognizing cognates will help you read and will increase your vocabulary.